

JAN 13 2005



IN THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Samuel H. Duncan et al.

Confirmation No.: 3331

Application No.: 09/944,515

Examiner: Donna K. Mason

Filing Date: August 31, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2111

Title: Passive Release Avoidance Technique

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is/are the following in the above-identified application:

- (X) Response/Amendment ( ) Petition to extend time to respond  
( ) New fee as calculated below ( ) Supplemental Declaration  
(X) No additional fee (Address envelope to "Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment")  
( ) Other: \_\_\_\_\_ (fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_)

CLAIMS AS AMENDED BY OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY						
(1) FOR	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	(6) RATE	(7) ADDITIONAL FEES
TOTAL CLAIMS	18	MINUS	20	= 0	X \$18	\$ 0
INDEP. CLAIMS	2	MINUS	3	= 0	X \$86	\$ 0
[ ] FIRST PRESENTATION OF A MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					+ \$290	\$ 0
EXTENSION FEE	1ST MONTH \$110.00	2ND MONTH \$420.00	3RD MONTH \$950.00	4TH MONTH \$1480.00		\$ 0
OTHER FEES						\$
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$ 0

Charge \$ 0 to Deposit Account 08-2025. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel H. Duncan et al.

By Michael R.

Michael R. Reinemann

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 38,280

Date of Deposit: January 11 2005

Typed Name: Melissa Altman

Signature: Melissa Altman

Date: January 11 2005



PATENTS  
15311-2292  
PD00-3270

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re The Application of: )  
Samuel H. Duncan et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/944,515 )  
Filed: August 31, 2001 )  
For: PASSIVE RELEASE AVOIDANCE )  
TECHNIQUE )  
                                )

Examiner: Mason, Donna K.  
Art Unit: 2111

Cesari and McKenna, LLP  
88 Black Falcon Avenue  
Boston, MA 02210  
January 11, 2005

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the following paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 11, 2005.

*Melissa Altman*  
Melissa L. Altman

Return Receipt Postcard (2)

Response to Office Action



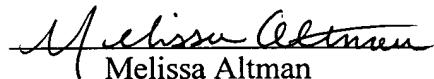
211  
JFW  
PATENTS  
15311-2292  
200301894-1

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Melissa Altman

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

### RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicants submit the following response to the Office mailed October 12, 2004.

While no claim amendments are being made in this response, a listing of the claims as they currently stand begins on page 3 of this paper for the Examiner's convenience.

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15311-2292  
200301894-1

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.